

Remarks

Summary

Claims 6-10, 12-14 and 17-19 were pending and all of the Claims were rejected in the present Office action. The revised sheet of drawings for Fig. 3 and 4 has been disapproved. Claim 6 has been amended and new Claims 24 and 25 have been introduced. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments. The Applicants have carefully considered the Examiner's arguments and respectfully traverse the rejections and objections. The Applicants respectfully submit that the revised Figs. 3 and 4 do not contain new matter, that the presently amended Claim 6 and new Claims 24 and 25 are allowable, and that all of the claims are fully supported by the specification and drawings.

Objections to the Revised Figures and the Specification

The proposed revised drawings filed on May 1, 2006 were disapproved as introducing new matter. As this objection is based on the same or similar premise as the objection to the specification and the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, the traverse of the objections is based on the same arguments as set forth below.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph

Claims 6-10, 12-14 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner asserts that the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The Applicants reiterate the traverse previously submitted. This paper contains an alternative statement of a traverse. In the alternative, the Applicants will withdraw the revised Figs. 3 and 4 and revert to the originally submitted figures.

The brief description of the drawings in the specification, beginning on page 12 and continuing on page 13 reads:

Fig. 1 is a schematic plan view illustrating the structure of a reflective liquid crystal display according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a schematic sectional view showing the structure of the reflective liquid crystal display according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional view schematically showing part of the structure of a reflective liquid crystal display according to a second embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged sectional view schematically showing part of the structure of a reflective liquid crystal display according to a third embodiment of the present invention.... [emphasis supplied]

Further, in the specification, beginning at the bottom of page 26:

Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional view schematically showing the vicinity of a sealing material in a color filter layer of a passive-matrix reflective liquid crystal display 2 according to a second embodiment of the present invention. The second embodiment has the same structure as the liquid crystal display 1 [that is, the structure shown in Figs. 1 or 2] except for the structure of the color filter layer. [emphasis supplied]

It would be evident to a person of ordinary skill in the art that the basic structure of the liquid crystal display was shown in Figs. 1 and 2, that Fig. 3 represented a detail of the second embodiment that differed in some manner from the first embodiment, and that Fig. 4 represented a detail of the third embodiment that differed in some manner from the first embodiment. This is clear, as the original specification described Figs 3 and 4 as each showing a part of the structure, and Figs. 1 and 2 were described as showing the structure itself.

This conclusion can also be drawn from the details of original Figs. 3 and 4 which, for example, show element 14, which is common to all of the figures, as being truncated in the drawings of Fig. 3 and 4 by a conventional drawing symbol. The upper portion of layer 17 above the stacked color filters (in region 80, for example) does not even extend as high as the truncated top of element 14, so that there must be a gap between element 17 and any part of the upper substrate. One can also

see that liquid crystal material 13 is shown in Figs 3 and 4 between element 17 and element 14.

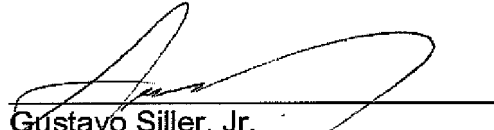
Although it is not necessary to show a complete view of embodiments two and three in order to fully describe the differences between embodiments two and three and the first embodiment, the Applicants undertook to do so in response to the Examiner's concerns about the support for the claimed subject matter. However, to require that the drawings show every detail of every embodiment is not a necessary condition for the claims to be fully supported. This is the equivalent of the holding that *ipsis verbis* disclosure is not necessary to satisfy the written description requirement of section 112. Instead, the disclosure need only reasonably convey to persons skilled in the art that the inventor had possession of the subject matter in question. *In re Edwards*, 568 F.2d 1349, 1351-52, 196 USPQ 465, 467 (CCPA 1978). Therefore, the proposed changes to Figs. 3 and 4, as previously submitted, merely complete a drawing of the same structure as shown in Figs 1 and 2 by changing a detail of Fig. 2 in accordance with the drawing of either Fig. 3 or Fig. 4. The Applicants respectfully submit that all of the information needed to make such a change was contained in the specification and figures as originally filed, and that no new matter has been introduced. Moreover, as such, the original specification and drawings fully support the present claims.

As a practical matter, to expedite the allowance of the application, Claim 6 has been amended to delete the phrase that the Examiner has objected to and rejected, but the version of the claim that existed prior to the amendment thereof has been reintroduced as new Claim 25. As the only remaining reason for rejecting Claim 25 would be the Examiner's reasoning that has been traversed above, Claim 25 is allowable.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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